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SUBJECT: SENEGAL: Gadio Visits Mauritania

On December 15 Senegalese Foreign Minister Cheikh Tidjane Gadio led a diplomatic mission to Mauritania for talks with military junta chief, General Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, and ousted President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi. According to the National Front for the Defense of Democracy (FNDD), a national alliance of parties which favor the return of President Abdallahi to power, the subject of the meeting between Gadio and the deposed president, which took place at Abdallahi's home some 250 kilometers east of the capital Nouakchott, was the friendly bilateral relations between the two countries. Local press is reporting that Gadio was dispatched to Mauritania at the behest of Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade to obtain information about the country's state of affairs. It is further being reported that since the return of Gadio to Senegal the military junta has announced that it will release President Abdallahi from house arrest on December 24.

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